

VILLAGE LEVEL MEETING

Organized by: Social Service Centre (SSC)

In Collaboration with People's Rights Forum, Meghalaya

Venue: Rngimasaw Village

Date: 28th August, 2011

-----A REPORT-----

At Rngimasaw the village Level Meeting was held on the 28th August 2011. The



programme was organized by the Social Service Centre (SSC), Shillong in collaboration with Meghalaya People's Rights Forum which is one of the bodies that looks into the matter related to the rights of the people. the meeting was held at the School premises at 10:30 and ended at 3:00 pm. 45 participants took part in the meeting which include the village headman, the secretary, the VEC members, the Aganwadi, ASHA,

Teachers, the SHG members, the youth group and the men and women of the village. The meeting was conducted with the aim to sensitize the villagers on their entitlements, i.e on right to food availability of the ration card, midday meals, ICDS, and awareness on food inflation

Mr. Synranlang Synrem one of the VEC member began the meeting with a welcome speech, . Before the process of the meeting the BSW students from St. Edmund entertain the participants by presenting the song and action song.

The meeting was handed over to the Coordinator Ms. Elizabeth where she discussed with the participants regarding the issues like:

- People's awareness on the different ration cards.
- Availability of the fair price shop & time for opening
- Quality of the food grain the villages received
- Amount they received
- Rise of food price-its effect
- Open sharing.

Before sharing in detail the issues highlighted above, Miss. Elizabeth discussed in details on people's awareness to their own rights. Though people are aware of their rights but

they have to be satisfied with what they are getting as the PDS are not getting the due to shortage supply of Govt. At the same time also food grains has been adjusted with those who don't have a ration cards. She also added that there are different ration cards. They are the BPL, AAY, APL and the Anna Purna..



Meanwhile through the interaction it was learnt that majority of the participants are not aware of their rights. It was also pointed out that they never received the full amount of ration that they supposed to get. They are aware of the amount they have to get but they are unknown for what they are being reduced only to 32 Kg.

Some of the problems of the beneficiaries in regards to Public Distribution System (PDS)

“We know that we supposed to received 35Kg but we are not aware for what we are being reduced to just 32 kg, we accept it as we are afraid to loose of what we are getting’

“Mid-day Meal it doesn't come regularly so we think it is government who need to look it to this matter”.

Regarding the mid day meal the headman has informed the SDO, but he was informed that rice has not yet arrived.

Interaction with the village community with PDS system in the village:



Mr. Synranlang Nongrum share his awareness regarding the amount that they supposed to get i.e. 35 Kg. but he has no knowledge for what he has been reduced to just

32 Kg. He said, "I know that I should get 35kg of rice as according to the record entered in my card, but I have to be satisfied with the 32kg as being inform to me by the retailer and the vigilant committee". He also narrated the problem of the retailer as he was informed by the food vigilant committee

He said that

- 'The weighing from the supplier is less so it has to be done this way so to reach out to all the beneficiaries. Or else there is a problem for others'.
- Due to the road condition the vehicle are not ready to come to the village unless they get a higher rate. Therefore the dealer has to bear the transportation charge.
- 'Many beneficiaries has no cards where the headman along with other headman decided to reach out to card less beneficiaries,

Before the conclusion the villagers were asked to comments on the meeting:

Comments from the participants

'This kind of meeting should be conducted from time to time especially for us the rural people so that we could get information about our rights so that after knowing our rights we can know to seek for it through our village leaders'. Synranlang Nongrum VEC member.

'I'm very thankful to you for providing us information on our rights and the ways to achieve these rights'. Bablue Mawlong (village Secretary)

'I was unaware of my entitlements in detail as you have teaches us today. I have learned a lot of thing'. Ms. Lisina Rynjah

Impact of the meeting:

- It was a first time for the villagers to know about their rights

- The village leaders were very glad to know about the facts and appreciated the Forum for taking the initiative to follow up with the Government on this issue so to help the people who were overlook from their Rights.
- Demand for the meeting from time to time for creating awareness and educating them.
- The meeting has also made the village leaders to make a rough application for ICDS centre and submit the same to the Block

Conclusion:

The meeting was ended at 3: 30 P.M. There was a great response from the villagers were they requested to take up like other issue like IAY, agriculture, electricity, road and others related issue.

PHOTO GALLERY





Others:

Besides the four village Level meeting, The Social Service Centre extended awareness to other 6 villages project where there exist the related problem. The village community and the headman were very pleased and wanted to have the meeting in an organized manner.

During the different meeting held in the villages' awareness on the BPL census to be conducted was informed to the genuine beneficiaries that they may be ready and be alert.

Impact of the meetings

- ❖ All the meeting conducted there was a good response from the village as well as from the village leaders.
- ❖ The village leaders expressed that they feel empowered, and even some of them decided to form the strong committee to follow up the issue raised.
- ❖ Some headman were unaware of the issue of the village came to light
- ❖ The meeting was really good where the participants were very pleased.
- ❖ It was one of the tools were the village community felt that there is someone who has come to give them life. :E.g. “Ngi sngew im” (we feel alive)

Last but not the least the village communities from all the 7 villages were very thankful for the forum and the SSC for creating this kind of awareness and making them to know their right. They also requested to follow them up from time to time.

Observation:

- The headman need to make known to the beneficiaries regarding the arrangement made on the entitlements
- Strong vigilant committees need to be created at the village level to see that the PDS is function as the criteria.
- Prior of reaching the food at the village level the Fair price shop owners need to work hand in hand with the committee and check it before getting the good and unloading them.
- The Fair Price shop needs to put up the sign board for the information regarding the PDS (time, hours, and the price lists.

As a whole the meeting was very effective, where a great impact was created at the village community and the village leaders. The SSC thank the Forum and the Doners in a very special manner for supporting the programme where it has benefited the rural beneficiaries.

For,

Social Service Centre, Shillong

Reported by

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